

Brockton, Massachusetts Regular Meeting December 15, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Green Cafeteria at Brockton High School at six o'clock.

Present: Mr. Bath, Vice-Chair; Mr. Minichiello; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Foley;
Mr. Daley; Mr. Dobrowski; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mayor Harrington

Vice-Chair Bath called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Ms. Gwendolyn Nauls addressed the School Committee this evening on a volunteer opportunity and distributed information taken from the CNN.com Website entitled, *MOMS TAKE CLASSES IN HOW TO HELP KIDS IN SCHOOL.*

Mr. John C. Williams addressed the School Committee this evening on two topics:
1) peace curriculum, and, 2) suspension acts.

Approval of Records

Mrs. Beyer made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the School Committee on December 1, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Daley made the motion to approve the report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for the month of November 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Recognition of Out-Going SC Members

At this time, Superintendent Malone and Mr. Bath, Vice-Chair, recognized out-going School Committee members Brian C. Foley and Ronald F. Dobrowski. Each Committee member was presented a plaque in appreciation for their years service. Mr. Dobrowski said that his 14 years of service were wonderful and advised the School Committee to work well together and to work to help the children.

Mr. Bath announced that Mayor Harrington was not in attendance this evening to receive recognition.

Teaching & Learning

RTTT Funding

The Superintendent spoke on the Race to the Top (RTTT) funding which, he said, is necessary in order to meet the educational needs of the 21st century. Dr. Malone said that the DESE is requesting that districts who want these funds, sign off on an MOU. This money will change conditions and improve things in the School Department. Required signatures of the MOU are the Superintendent, a School Committee representative and the BEA president. The deadline for submission of the signed document to the DESE is January 13, 2010.

Dr. Malone said that the School System is looking at fiscal problems in the coming year – a \$14 million gap, and he suggested that Brockton sign the MOU to close that gap. The Superintendent also said that he has attended two meetings regarding RTTT and hopes to vet the process, even more.

Mr. Bath said that School Committee members who attended the MASS-MASC fall conference voiced concern regarding the RTTT funding, but voted to go forward with it. Those who sign, he said, will be considered for future funding.

A discussion then took place regarding concerns about: signing the MOU without knowing future changes; DESE feedback; impact on existing collective bargaining agreements; IB and Turnaround models; concern about attracting administrators and teachers to the schools where they are needed the most; feedback and the level of support from the teachers' union; ranking schools by test scores, etc. Dr. Malone responded to each School Committee member's concern(s).

Dr. Malone ended the discussion by saying that the RTTT rollout is based on the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunches. He said that he will ask for a motion at the January meeting. Mr. Daley and other School Committee members requested an additional meeting of the School Committee regarding RTTT before the next regular meeting of the School Committee, and also mentioned that, if need be, the issue could be discussed following the next regular meeting on January 5, 2010.

Mrs. Beyer made the motion to move forward with RTTT at the January 5, 2010 meeting of the School Committee.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Safety & Security

Dr. Malone discussed safety and security changes that he has made in the Brockton Public Schools, mostly, he said, with the command of the School Police. Captain McCabe of the Brockton Police Department has taken command of the School Police and daily operations. He will work with Dr. Malone on security across the System.

The Superintendent said that he has posted two security guard jobs for a 2 p.m. – 9 p.m. shift. He also stated that he will be bringing recommendations to the School Committee regarding security, especially at Brockton High School. Dr. Malone said that he has discussed with Mayor-elect Balzotti his wish to have a *blue ribbon panel* on the school side that will vet and make recommendations regarding safety and security to the School Department and School Committee in the next few years – an item, said Dr. Malone, that will be included in his five-year plan.

Mrs. Joyce asked the Superintendent to report back to the School Committee in the future regarding the pay scale, credentials and other requirements of the security guards. Mr. Foley recommended that part of the training of security guards be in confrontational management and cultural awareness.

**SC Subcommittee
Assignments**

Dr. Malone announced that the 2009 School Committee Subcommittee Assignments were included in agenda booklet this evening, and told School Committee members who wished to request a 2010 assignment to do so by contacting his office by December 29, 2009.

The Subcommittee assignments, with the exception of the Community Schools and the Chair of the Curriculum/Finance/Policy Subcommittees, which are elected positions, will be announced by the Mayor at the January 5, 2010 Organizational School Committee meeting.

New 2010 Scholarship

Dr. Malone stated that Attorney David Frenette sent a communication stating that the estate of Margaret and William Streeter has left a donation to the Brockton High School scholarship fund in the total amount of \$90,859.88. The donation will be deposited into the Brockton Education Foundation account and will be used per the stated guidelines.

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above generous donation and send a letter of acknowledgment.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Questions were asked by Messrs. Bath and Minichiello regarding, 1) the awarding of scholarships; 2) if a School Committee policy existed regarding scholarships; and, 3) if a School Committee member could be a part of the decision-making. Mr. Petronio and Drs. Malone and Szachowicz responded.

**First Reading/BPS
2010-2011 Calendar**

Superintendent Malone informed the School Committee that the first reading of the 2010-2011 School Calendar was included in this evening's agenda, consisting of the opening of school, school holidays, vacation periods, BHS graduation and the last day of school for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mrs. Beyer moved to accept the first reading of the 2010-2011 School Calendar.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Harvard Pilgrim Spirit
9/11 Grant Award**

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept and spend the Harvard Pilgrim Grant Award for the Hancock School in the amount of \$500. The grant will support the weekly *Principal's Vocabulary Challenge* which motivates students to increase their vocabulary and become more proficient readers.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Acceptance of
Donation/Printers**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the donation of 15 used Hewlett Packard DeskJet printers by the Venture Tape Company of Rockland, MA.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce asked the Superintendent about the age of the printers and where they will be located. Dr. Malone said that he would get this information out to School Committee in the next Informational Bulletin.

**Authorization to
Submit Proposals**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *MA Census Equity Fund RFP* and, if successful, the expenditure of funds, which are intended to increase awareness of and participation in the Census 2010.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board's English for Employment Instruction RFP for Adult ESOL classes* and, if successful, the expenditure of funds. The proposal seeks funding of \$18,000 to be expended between January 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, 6 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Dobrowski)

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize the submission of the *MA Learn at Work Program RFP for Adult Basic Education Classes* and, if successful, the expenditure of funds. The proposal seeks funding of \$200,000 to be expended between March 1, 2010 and February 28, 2013 and will support a partnership between the ALC and St. Joseph Manor Healthcare, Inc.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, 6 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Dobrowski)

Personnel Appts.

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #13.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Personnel Action

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #14:

Leaves of Absence:

Amy Mazzola, Davis (8 wk. Maternity, Eff. 4/13/10)

Resignation:

Mary Ambrose, East Middle, Eff. 12/11/09

Change of Retirement (Administrative Assistants):

Norma McWilliams, Parent Information, From December 24, 2012 to January 4, 2013

Diane Yost, Central Office, From December 24, 2012 to January 4, 2013

Early Retirements:

To participate in the 12% Final Step Increase Plan

Karen Batchelder, Confidential Adm. Asst., to retire 7/19/2013

To participate in the 4% Early Retirement Plan

Ruth Agoglia, Baker, to retire 10/18/13
Donna Burrill, BHS, to retire 6/30/13
Nancy Costa, BHS, to retire 7/9/13
Genoveva Curet, Angelo, to retire 6/30/12
Anne DiCicco, Raymond, to retire 12/31/13
Cathy Duford, Arnone, to retire 6/30/13
Diane Holcomb, BHS, to retire 6/30/13
Nancy Kunce, Brookfield, to retire 9/1/13
Denise Lee, Kennedy, to retire 6/30/13
Janice Mead, BHS to retire 6/30/13
Dorothy O'Brien, BHS, to retire 11/1/13
Jack Olson, South, to retire 6/30/13
Roseann Perry, Plouffe, to retire 6/30/13
Carol Peterson, Arnone, to retire 6/30/12
Kevin Quill, Downey, to retire 10/25/13
Milena Quill, Angelo, to retire 7/6/13
Charles Sullivan, Baker, to retire 6/30/13
Mary Valente, Kennedy, to retire 6/30/13
Donna Willow, Raymond, to retire 6/30/13

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

**Accounts Review
Subcommittee**

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Accounts Review Subcommittee meeting on December 1, 2009, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Bid Review
Subcommittee**

Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Bid Review Subcommittee meeting on December 1, 2009, as amended.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to award the FY2010 School Bids to the vendor(s).

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Bid Review Subcommittee meeting on the December 15, 2009, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to award the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning 2010 bid to the vendor Mulkern Mechanical, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

**Facilities Usage &
Planning Subcommittee**

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report of the Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee meeting on December 7, 2009.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Secretary

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